

Office of Counter-Terrorism

Established by Executive Order in 2002, the New Jersey Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT) complements the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force and provides the state with a centralized agency to administer and lead New Jersey's counter-terrorism efforts. The Executive Order defines the Office's mission as "identifying, detecting and deterring terrorist activity" by focusing on intelligence gathering and analysis, investigations, training and helping to protect critical infrastructure.

OCT is supervised by the Attorney General. Its staff is provided mainly by the Attorney General from the Division of State Police and the Division of Criminal Justice. These law enforcement powers derive from the fact that the OCT is within the Office of the Attorney General, the state's chief law enforcement officer. The Office of Counter-Terrorism's major accomplishments fall into four main categories: Information Sharing and Outreach; Training Initiatives; Investigative/Intelligence Operations; and Infrastructure Protection.

These accomplishments include:

Information Sharing/Outreach

- ❖ **Activated an Office of Counter-Terrorism toll-free tip line, 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ** (1-866-472-3365) to encourage the public to report suspicious activity that may be terrorist-related. During various elevations of the Homeland Security Alert System to Threat Level Orange, the Tip Line number is prominently displayed on major highways and roadways throughout the state on the Department of Transportation's various message boards.
- ❖ **Created six secure Web sites through the New Jersey State portal** site to provide information to (1) law enforcement, (2) the private sector/ owners and operators of critical facilities, (3) mayors and government representatives, (4) educators, (5) fire and emergency services personnel and (6) all sectors on Best Practices for security.
- ❖ **Implemented a Statewide Information Management System (SIMS)** to facilitate the process for county and local police to report leads regarding potential terrorist activities. The reporting process allows for consistent tracking and documentation of leads, streamlines the reporting of leads to the Office Counter-Terrorism and the FBI's



From left to right; Edwin Moore, Assistant Director; Anita Bogdan, Assistant Director; Sidney Caspersen, Director; Angela LaBelle, Chief of Staff; Edward Curran, Deputy Director and Stephen Serrao, Assistant Director. Not pictured: Caroline Barnes, Assistant Director and Cherrie Black, Assistant Director.

Joint Terrorism Task Forces. SIMS also serves as a repository and analytical tool for intelligence data.

- ❖ **Implemented the Critical Asset Tracking System (CATS)** database, a centralized electronic repository that tracks, maintains, collects and analyzes data relevant to sites within the state that have been identified as critical or significant for homeland security.

Training Initiatives

- ❖ **Designed and delivered Basic Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Awareness Training Courses for law enforcement personnel.** To date, a total of 1,658 law enforcement officers have been trained statewide. These courses meet the provisions of Attorney General Directive 2004-03 that requires all New Jersey police officers to be trained in counter-terrorism awareness and other related courses.
- ❖ **Designed and delivered seven Train-the-Trainer workshops for Law Enforcement Trainers** in which 222 instructors have been trained. In turn, 180 of these instructors had trained approximately 5,800 law enforcement personnel by the end of 2004.
- ❖ **Developed and presented two advanced one-day International Terrorism Symposiums**, each attended by more than 500 law enforcement and government officials.

Investigative/Intelligence Operations

- ❖ **Coordinated investigative efforts among federal, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies.**
- ❖ **Reviewed and processed more than 3,000 investigative leads into the SIMS intelligence system** that

were provided by federal, state, county and municipal agencies, as well as the general public through the toll-free counter-terrorism tip line (866-4-SAFE-NJ).

Infrastructure Protection

- ❖ **Expanded and revised identification of critical infrastructure sites statewide**, using Department of Homeland Security guidelines, as well as information provided by municipal and county officials.
- ❖ **Completed Buffer Zone Protection Plans (BZPPs)**, in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7 (Protection of Critical Infrastructure), for approximately 50 critical infrastructure sites, including chemical, petroleum, and water treatment facilities, commercial buildings and public gathering places.
- ❖ **Coordinated the development and drafting of Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) response measures** for all state departments and agencies. These measures indicate what steps and procedures each agency will take to correspond to changes in the HSAS threat matrix.
- ❖ **Prepared, coordinated and implemented procedures and equipment acquisition for county and municipal law enforcement** during the July/August 2004 Threat Level Orange alert indicated by the Department of Homeland Security for the Prudential Financial Center in Newark.

